

Public Participation in Oso Creek / Oso Bay TMDL Project



Segment 2485A and 2485 –
Bacteria/Contact Recreation

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Environmental Planning and Implementation Division



Why Involve Stakeholders?



Why Involve Stakeholders?

- Main vehicle for the public to participate in the TMDL process and instrumental in obtaining local (your) support for actions aimed at restoring the water quality Oso Bay and Oso Creek



Who Are Stakeholders?

- All individuals or organizations in the watershed who:
 - live in the watershed or use the water resource
 - contribute a significant impact to the watershed
 - may be required to carry out control measures
 - can help to develop or implement actions
 - have statutory or regulatory responsibilities
 - are significantly affected by the problem(s)
 - are directly affected by the project's outcome



Facilitating the formation of a Watershed Advisory Group (WAG)

➤ Soliciting Members

- Identify stakeholders for WAG to have a balanced representation within the watershed
- House Bill 2912 – No more than 24 members
- Invite members, formalize commitment
- Establish and maintain a roster of members and ground rules



Balanced Representation

WAG membership must represent a diverse representation of the watershed:

- Geography
- Income levels
- Ethnicity
- Business (different types and sizes)
- Governments (different sizes and levels)
- Associations, trade groups, organizations
- Consumer and public interest groups
- Industries or occupations regulated and affected



Operating the Advisory Group

- TCEQ Approval
 - Formation of group
 - Membership
- Conduct of Meetings
 - Open to the public, inclusive
 - Ground rules and structure
 - Agendas and minutes
 - Maintain web site at:

<http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/water/quality/tmdl/osobaybacteria.html>



Operate by Consensus – Members agree
to abide by the proposed approach

➤ Every relevant issue
raised will be recorded
and addressed by
WAG



TCEQ's Commitment to Stakeholders are to:

- Work with stakeholders to ensure they understand the issues and your ideas are considered
- Solicit stakeholder comment at each milestone in the project's development



EPA - LAW

- TCEQ reserves the right to take any action to comply with regulations, laws, or necessity for a successful TMDL development & approval



Maintain the WAG

Requires informing the public by providing:

- TCEQ Web site
- Prior notice of meetings and agendas
- Posting of meeting minutes and attendance



[www.tceq.state.tx.us/water/
quality/tmdl/](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/water/quality/tmdl/)



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